

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5574

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 0064

FOR USOAS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, UY

SUBJ: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN MONTEVIDEO

REF: MONTEVIDEO 042, STATE 1739

1. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. THE GOU IS CONTINUING TO REACT TO RECENT WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS (REFTELS) REGARDING THE STATE OF PLAY SURROUNDING URUGUAY'S BID TO HOST THE FORTH-COMING OAS MINISTERIAL MEETING. AFTERNOON TABLOID MUNDO COLOR ON JANUARY 4 AND THE MORNING LA MANANA IN ITS JANUARY 5 EDITORIAL CARRIED PROMINENTLY-PLACED BACKGROUNDS WHICH, ALTHOUGH NOT SPECIFICALLY ATTRIBUTED, GAVE EVIDENCE OF CAREFUL BRIEFING BY FONOFF SOURCES. APART FROM A RESTATEMENT OF THE BACKGROUND -- WHICH CONTINUES IN THE MAIN TO BE ACCURATELY REPRESENTED HERE -- THE STORIES APPEARED AIMED AT BROADCASTING SPECIFIC GOU POINTS OF VIEW WHICH WERE NOT COVERED BY THE WIRE SERVICES.

2. LA MANANA'S PIECE WAS HEADED BY A BRIEF, BOXED DIRECT QUOTE BY FONMIN ROVIRA TO THE EFFECT THAT "URUGUAY'S OFFER (TO HOST THE MEETING) IS STILL VALID"; HE WAS ALSO INDIRECTLY QUOTED AS STATING THAT THE INVITATION WAS MADE TO GIVE THE

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OAS MEMBERS A CHANCE TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST URUGUAY ARE "FALSE AND FALLACIOUS". THIS POINT WAS ALSO PICKED UP BY MUNDO COLOR. HEAVY EMPHASIS WAS LAID IN BOTH STORIES ON THE US ROLE: "AN INTENSE DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE UNLEASHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE" (MUNDO COLOR); "GROWING PRESSURE TO OBLIGE THE AMERICAN NATIONS TO REJECT THE URUGUAYAN OFFER"

(MANANA). THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF SECRETARY VANCE AT A MEETING IN MONTEVIDEO WAS DISMISSED AS AN EMPTY THREAT BY MUNDO COLOR: INQUIRIES MADE AT THE DIPLOMATIC LEVEL IN WASHINGTON "GAVE IT NO CREDENCE" SINCE IT HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED EITHER BY THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS OFFICE OR BY ANY OF THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE SPOKESMEN. MANANA ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE SECRETARY'S NON-ATTENDANCE WOULD BE OF "SUCH MAGNITUDE AS TO FRUSTRATE PRACTICALLY ALL DIALOGUE DURING THE MEETING BETWEEN THE US AND OTHER AMERICAN STATES."

3. MORNING EL PAIS, WHICH ALSO REFLECTS THE GOU LINE, INSTEAD FEATURED AN AP DESPATCH OF JANUARY 4 FROM WASHINGTON WHICH LISTED MEXICO, VENEZUELA, JAMAICA, TRINIDAD, BARBADOS AND THE US AS THE OPPOSITION BLOC, WITH PANAMA, SURINAM, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS UNDECIDED. STORY WAS PRECEDED, HOWEVER, BY AN EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT "URUGUAY WOULD HAVE THE NECESSARY VOTES IN SPITE OF US PRESSURE.

4. ALSO OF INTEREST WAS SURFACING IN MUNDO COLOR AND LA MANANA PIECES OF POSSIBILITY THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MIGHT REPRESENT A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE MEETING SITE. ALTHOUGH NO PREVIOUS REPORT OF THIS HAS BEEN TAKEN LOCALLY, LA MANANA'S ITEM NOTED THAT DOMINICAN FONMIN JIMENEZ HAS "CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT VARIOUS COUNTRIES HAVE PROPOSED SANTO DOMINGO AS THE SITE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY INSTEAD OF MONTEVIDEO". JIMENEZ WAS FURTHER QUOTED AS CLARIFYING THAT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC HAD NOT PROPOSED ITS OWN CANDIDACY, BUT WAS PREPARED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MEETING IF CHOSEN. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

5. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. MOST NOTABLE IS THE ATTENTION DEVOTED TO THE ALLEGED USG THREAT THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD NOT ATTEND A OASGA IN URUGUAY. THERE IS A CERTAIN WHISTLING-IN-THE-DARK QUALITY TO THE GOU-INSPIRED DENIALS NOTED IN PARA TWO WHICH GIVES EVIDENCE THAT A POSSIBLE SNUB BY THE SECRETARY TOUCHES SOME IN THE GOU ON AN EXTREMELY TENDER NERVE. END CONFIDENTIAL. PEZZULLO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Film Number: D780012-0110
Format: TEL
From: MONTEVIDEO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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